

REMARKS

The present communication is responsive to the Office Action issued April 3, 2008. Claims 1-22 remain pending for the Examiner's consideration.

The drawings were objected to for several informalities. In response to the objection, Applicants submit herewith replacement drawing sheets for Figs. 1 and 2 labeled "PRIOR ART." Applicants also hereby clarify that element 205 represents reproduction management information. In Fig. 2, this is illustrated as including subparts "Reproduction procedure information name," "In," and "Out." Further, element 206 represents reproduction procedure information. These titles cannot be legibly added to Fig 2, but they are accurately described in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Published Appln. No. 2002/0066113 to Utsunomiya et al. ("Utsunomiya").

Claim 1 recites:

a recordation control process executing section for executing a data recordation process to the information recording means and a process of generating control information during data reproduction,

. . . wherein

in the case of continuously executing a data recordation process to a plurality of information recording means, *a plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information are generated corresponding respectively to the plurality of information recording means, and link information to the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information is stored to one piece of the reproduction management information.* (emphasis added)

Accordingly, the control section controls data recordation, so that in the case of continuous data recordation across a plurality of recording means, procedure information is generated corresponding to each recording means. In this regard, information may be recorded across multiple devices without discontinuity.

In contrast, Utsunomiya teaches a system with two video cassette recorders (VCRs), each VCR including a control unit, an interface, and consecutive recording information adding unit and memory. (Utsunomiya, [0043]). During recording, the control unit of the first VCR judges the remaining capacity, and generates information indicating the next VCR that will record information. When the recorded information is played back, the information indicating the next VCR is implemented. Thus, uninterrupted recording and playback is dependent upon a plurality of individual control units, in a series of recording devices, to properly identify the next recording device in the series. Further, even if each control unit is properly functioning, the recording process may be interrupted as the first VCR reaches maximum capacity and the second VCR begins recording, thus resulting in a loss of information.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Utsunomiya fails to disclose "a recordation control process executing section" or that "a plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information are generated corresponding respectively to the plurality of information recording means" or that "link information to the plurality of pieces of reproduction procedure information is stored to one piece of the reproduction management information" as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over Utsunomiya. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, and therefore include all the limitations of claim 1. Therefor, Applicants submit that claims 2-7 are patentable for at least the reasons discuss above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 2-7 be withdrawn.

Independent claims 8, 11, 18, 21, and 22 include similar limitations to those in claim 1, and were rejected on the same grounds as claim 1. Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8, 11, 18, 21, and 22 are patentable, and request that the rejections thereof be withdrawn.

Claims 9-10, 12-17, and 19-20 depend from claims 8, 11, and 18, respectively. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 9-10, 12-17, and 19-20 be withdrawn.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

Application No.: 10/500,401

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-342

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: July 3, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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